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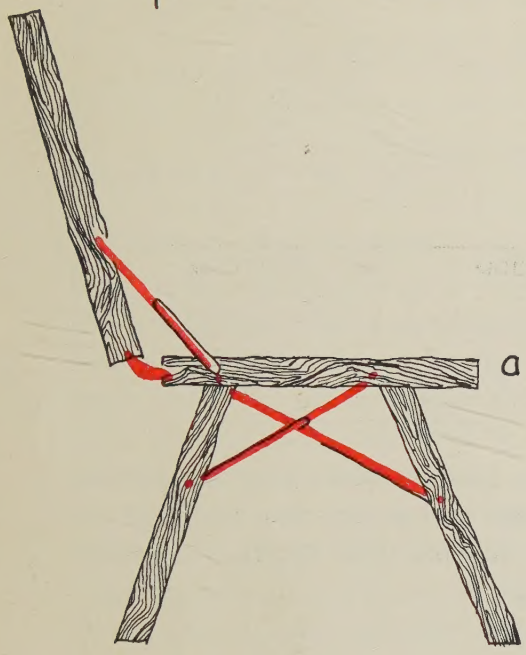
storage

for your home



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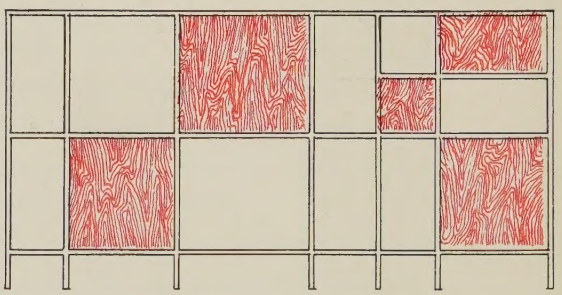

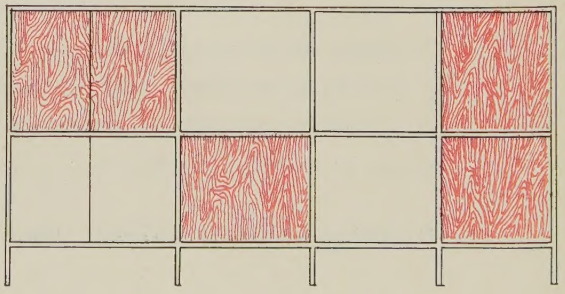

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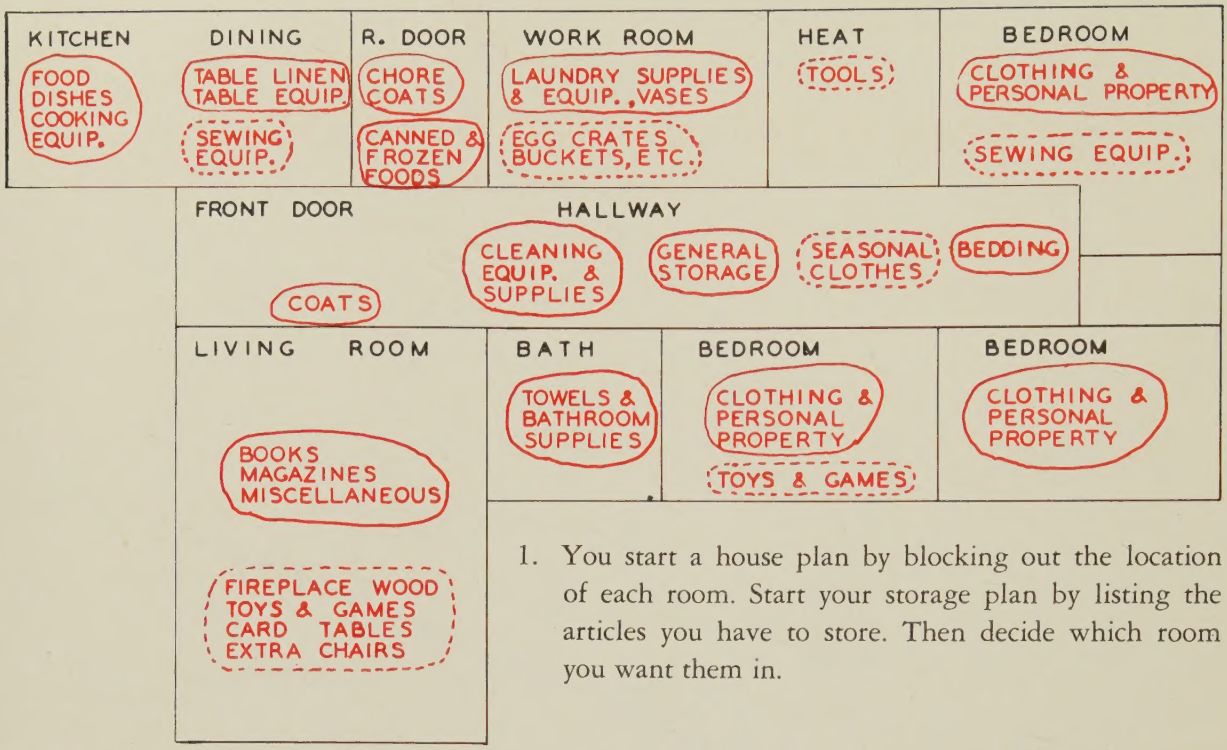
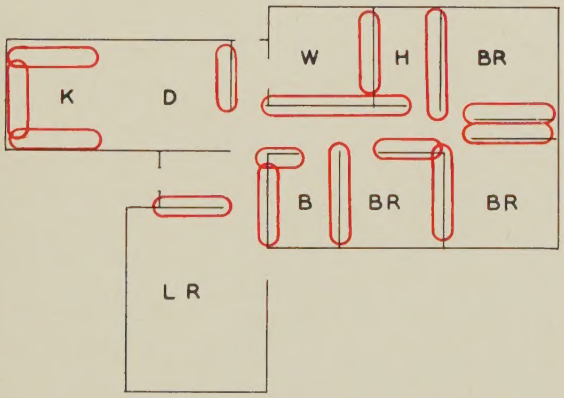
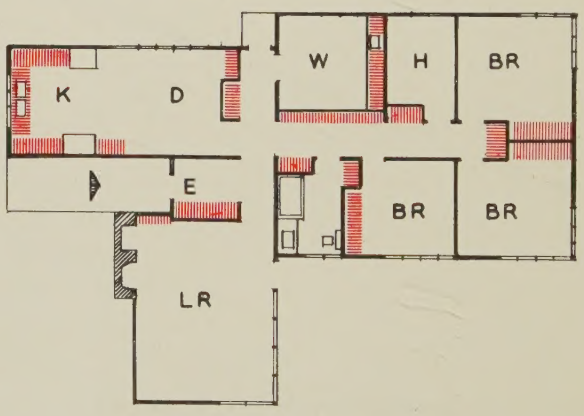


1. You start a house plan by blocking out the location of each room. Start your storage plan by listing the articles you have to store. Then decide which room you want them in.



2. The best locations for storage areas are along the inside walls of rooms. After you have decided what you want to store in each room, study your house plan to see where to put each closet or cupboard.



3. Now you are ready to draw your plan. Some of your closets and cupboards go into rooms. The hall is a good place for storage areas too. It's easy to get to and closet doors have room to open. Check your plan to be sure that closet doors and traffic lanes are located so they will not interfere with furniture.

Drawings by Don Lockridge, John Aylor, and Bill Hocking

Storage for Your Home

By Helen Noyes*
Extension Specialist in Home Management

When you put something away in your home today, you want to put it where you can use it tomorrow. This is well-planned storage, and it just doesn't happen or fall into place when you make your house plan. Good storage must be planned like any room in the house, put where you want and need it.

Certain articles are used in each room in the house, and you want to be able to keep these articles in or near that room. For example, you use towels, soap, and other bathroom supplies in the bathroom, so that is where you want storage space to keep them.

Locate Your Storage Areas

Your house plan may look entirely different from the one on the preceding page. But you can use the same method to locate your storage spaces when you begin to plan your house. The first drawing shows the general room arrangement of a house and the articles normally stored in or near each room.

Block out the room arrangement, and then locate the areas where you want different types of storage—similar to this drawing. In this way, you make out a general storage plan for your entire home. Sometimes it is necessary to combine some of these areas to cut down building costs.

In the lower left hand drawing, the same floor plan shows the walls in the house available for storage areas. Probably you don't need all this space, but any one of these walls is a natural location for some kind of storage. The floor plan in the right-hand corner shows closets and cupboards conveniently fitted into the general plan above.

Make Use of Your Hall

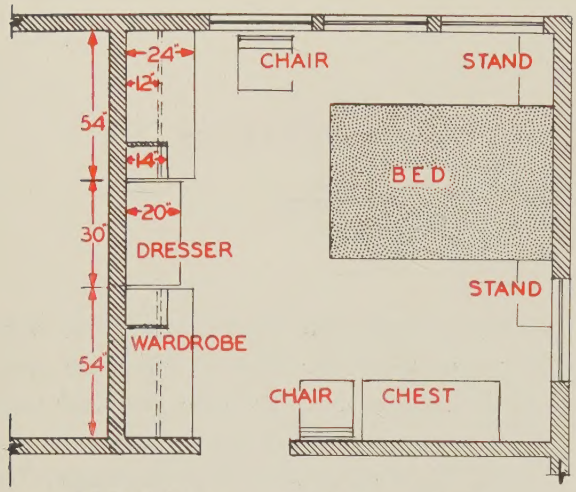
A central hall which opens from the kitchen and workroom areas is an ideal location for storage areas. Besides being convenient it places closet doors in the hall rather than in the rooms. This leaves wall space in rooms free for furniture, an important item in these days of smaller rooms and high building costs. You, however, still need closets in some of the rooms, such as in the bedrooms.

After you have decided on the space required for storage and the most convenient location for the different types, you need a plan for each area so you can make the best use of the space. Too often we waste as much space as we use.

This bulletin gives suggestions for standard measurements and ideas for construction that make good use of available space. Plan all measurements to provide the space you need.

Acknowledgment is made to Elizabeth Weeks Wiley, Instructor in Housing and Equipment, for assistance in preparing this bulletin.

Bedroom Storage



BEDROOM —— FLOOR PLAN

Bedrooms are divided into sleeping and dressing areas. In the plan at the left, the closet and dressing space are close together, quite convenient when you hang up clothes, or dress and undress. A chair near the closet door and the chest completes the dressing area.

When two people use a room, it's a good idea to divide the wardrobe so each has his own section. If this is not enough hanging space for clothes, take out the dresser and run a rod the entire length of the wall. And for extra drawer space, you'll find a dresser or chest of drawers much more usable for an average family than a dressing table.

MEASUREMENTS FOR CLOTHING STORAGE

From floor to rod—
- 63 inches for street dresses
- 45 inches for suits, blouses, and skirts
- 72 inches for floor-length dresses
- 30 inches for 3 to 5 year olds
- 45 inches for 6 to 12 year olds

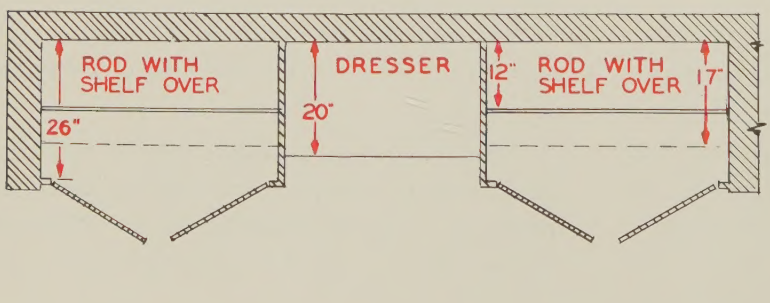
3 feet minimum rod allowance per person
11 to 15 inches depth of shelf above rod
11 inches depth of second shelf above rod
9 inches between shelves for hat box
7 inches allowance between shelves for shoes

Make Your Closet Easy to Use

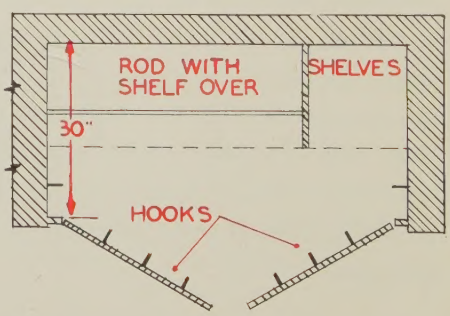
Plan your storage space so nothing sits on your closet floor, and it'll be easy to keep clean. Pull-out trays are used on shelves for underwear, sweaters, and other clothing.

Shelf space for shoes, hats, and purses, however, is quite convenient since you can reach the articles easily and still keep the closet in order. And for all types of shoes, including those with flat heels and wedge soles, a flat shelf or pull-out tray is best.

On either side of the bed, a stand with shelves or drawers holds those articles you want near the bed.

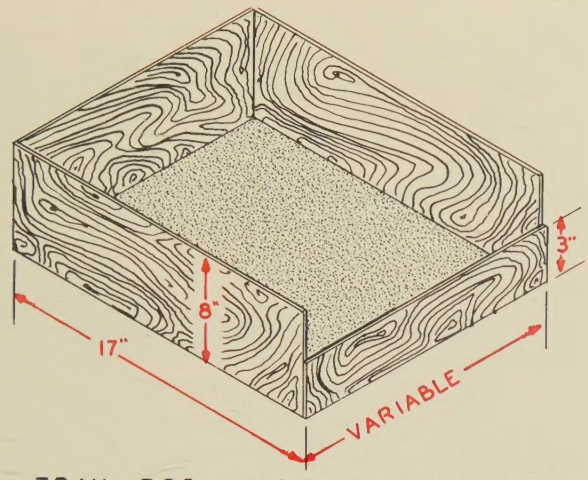


WARDROBES AND DRESSER



WARDROBE WITH CABINET DOORS

Bedroom Storage

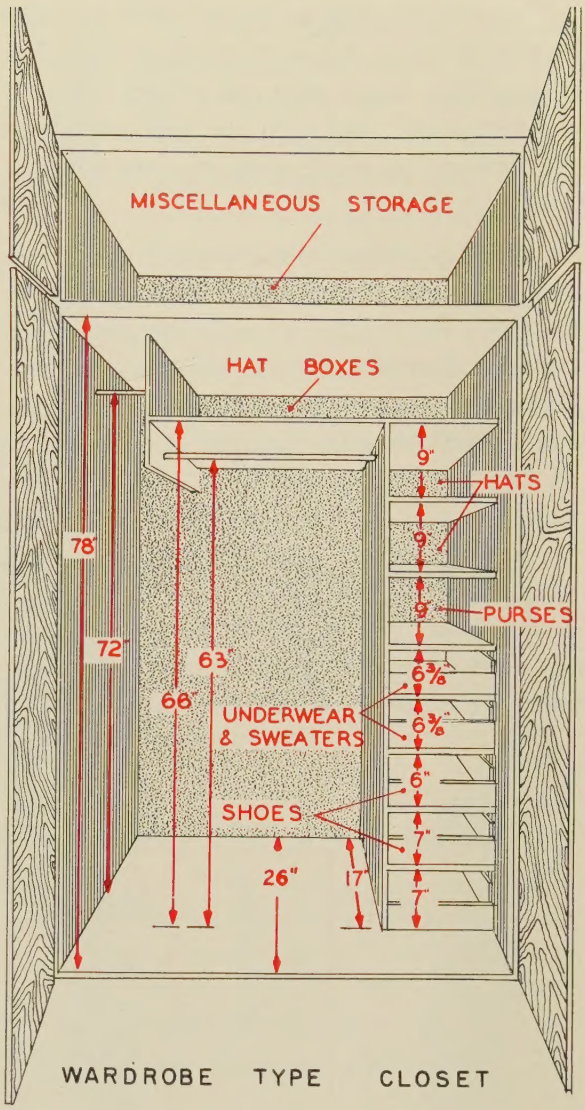


TRAY FOR CLOSET SHELVES

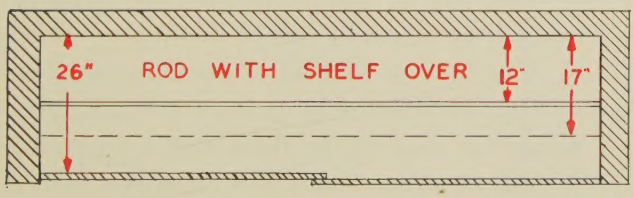
Floor Plans

The floor plans at the bottom of these two pages show different types of clothing closets you can plan in bedrooms. A well-planned wardrobe closet is cheapest to build and usually makes the best use of floor space. And if the wardrobe doors swing out, you can hang tie and belt racks on the inside of them.

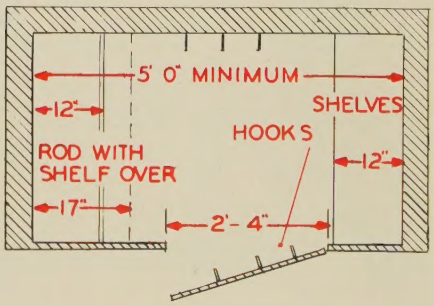
In a deeper closet, put hooks for clothing on the inside of the door and at each side of the closet. If you plan sliding doors, put them on rollers so the doors are easy to open. With the rollers at the top, you'll find it easier to clean the door glide at the base.



WARDROBE TYPE CLOSET



WARDROBE WITH SLIDING DOORS

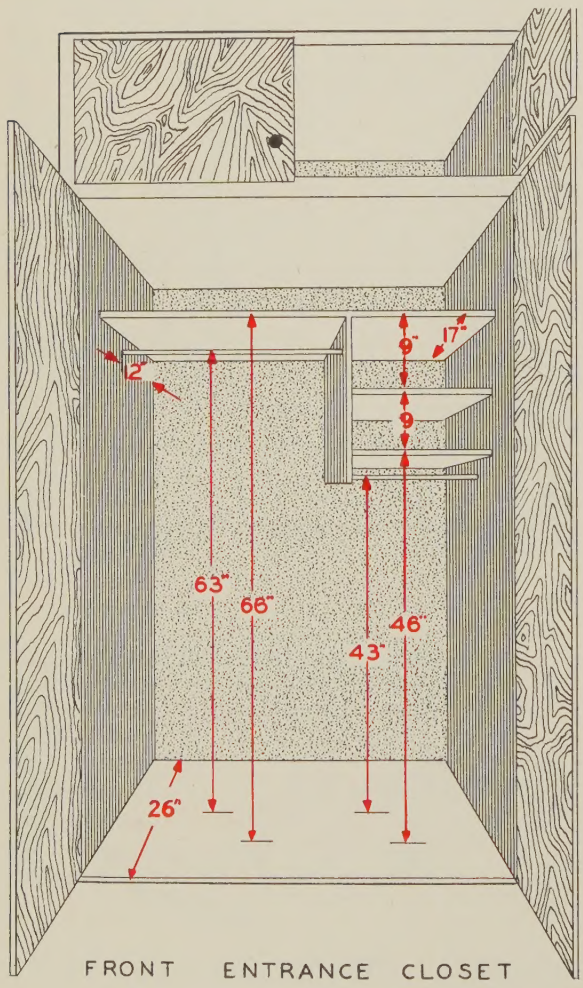


WALK – IN CLOSET

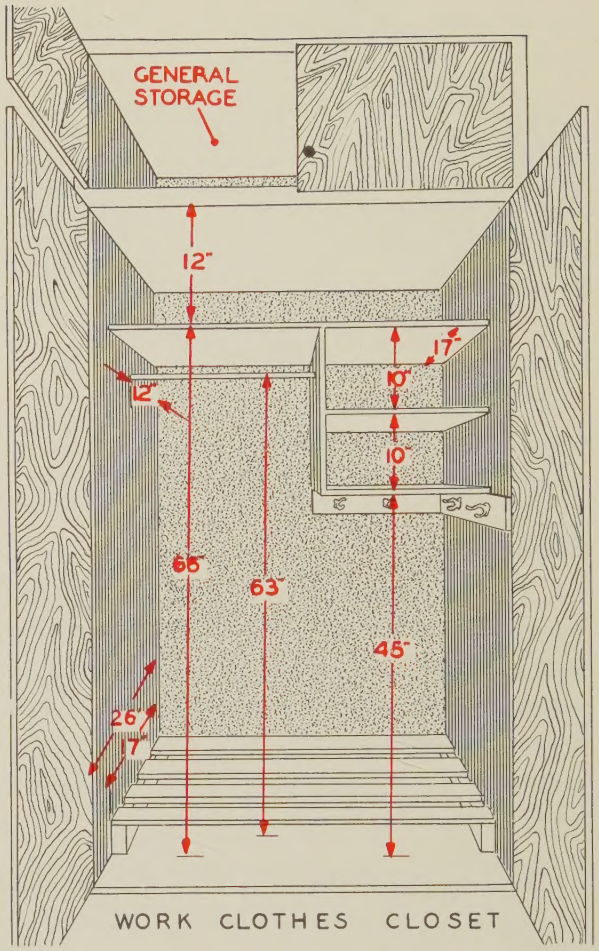
Coat Closets

It's easy to hang up a coat when you take it off if there's a clothes closet 26 to 30 inches deep nearby. You'll want one at both the front and rear doors. And with low rods and hooks the children can reach, they, too, can hang up their own clothes.

A rod 63 inches from the floor is the proper height for adults' coats, while the height of the children's rod should vary with the ages of the children. Shelves above the children's rod provide space for their sweaters, caps, and mittens, and a shelf above the high rod is a good place to keep hats and purses.



FRONT ENTRANCE CLOSET

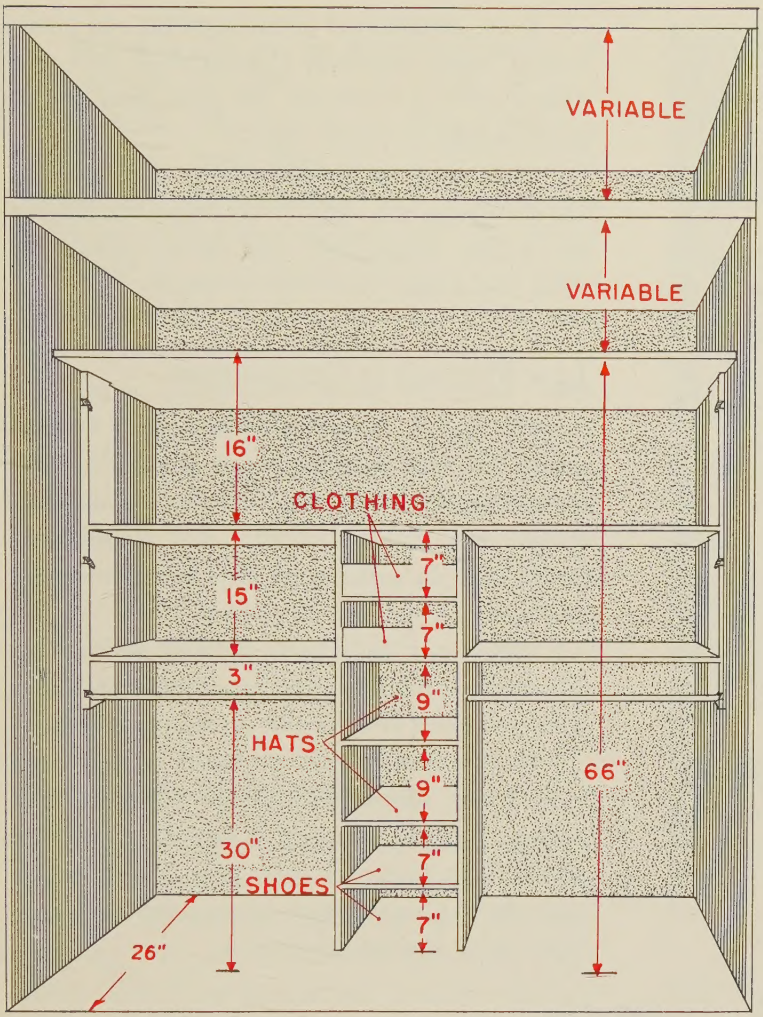


WORK CLOTHES CLOSET

Plan a closet near the rear door for work coats and boots; a good size is 2 feet deep by 3 or 4 feet long. Work clothes dry better when hung on hangers in the closet rather than hooks. Slats or grills in the doors speed up clothes drying. And some families put in a small heat register to make clothes dry faster.

The hook at the left of the drawing above is high enough for a pair of overalls. Also notice the rack on the floor that is removable for easy cleaning. You'll find boots and rubbers dry more rapidly on this rack than when placed directly on the floor.

Children's Storage



CLOSET FOR CHILDRENS' CLOTHES

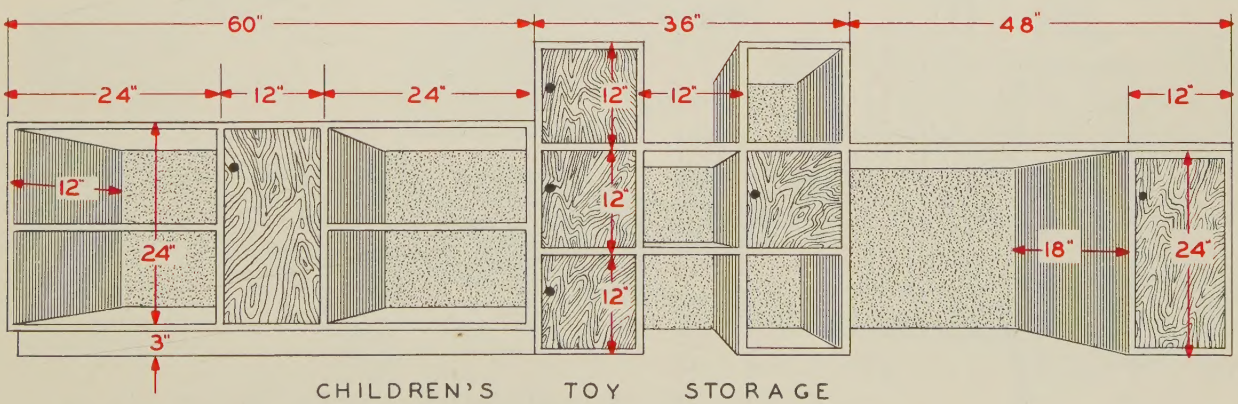
If your children are to learn neatness and orderliness while they are still small, they need storage space planned especially for them. Low rods and shelves make it easy for them to hang up their clothes and put away their toys. They especially like a place meant for them alone.

The closet on this page has been planned so you may adjust the rods and shelves as the children grow. Small children can reach a rod 30 inches from the floor. Then the rod can be raised as they grow taller.

Two children may share a closet, divided in the center so each has his own section. Small children can use shelves more easily than pull-out trays.

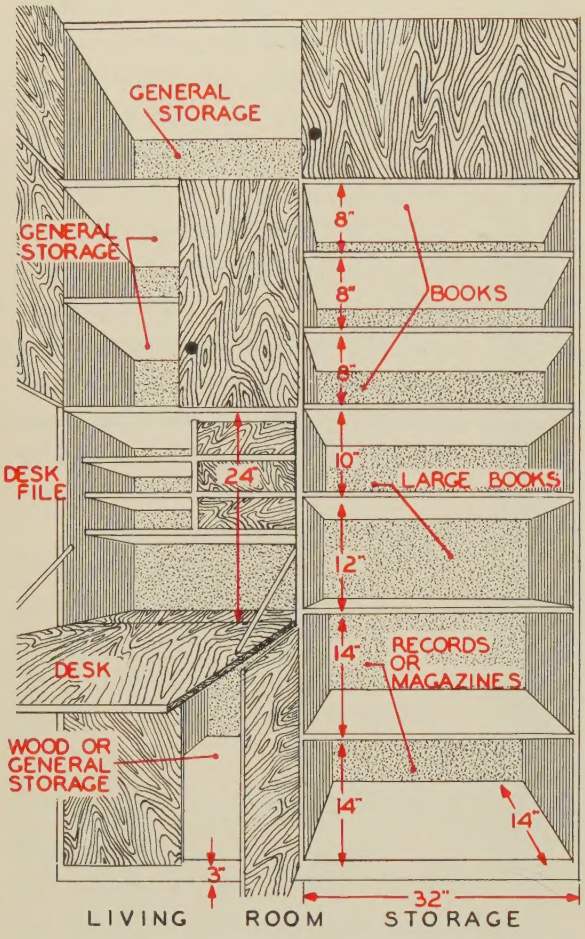
For Their Toys

You can build storage for toys from crates or plywood. You can build any one of the sections shown in the drawing below, depending upon the space you have and the amount of room your children need.



CHILDREN'S TOY STORAGE

Living Room Storage



Some families are musical, others are bookworms, some entertain a great deal, and still others are stay-at-homes. So plan your living room storage to fit the family.

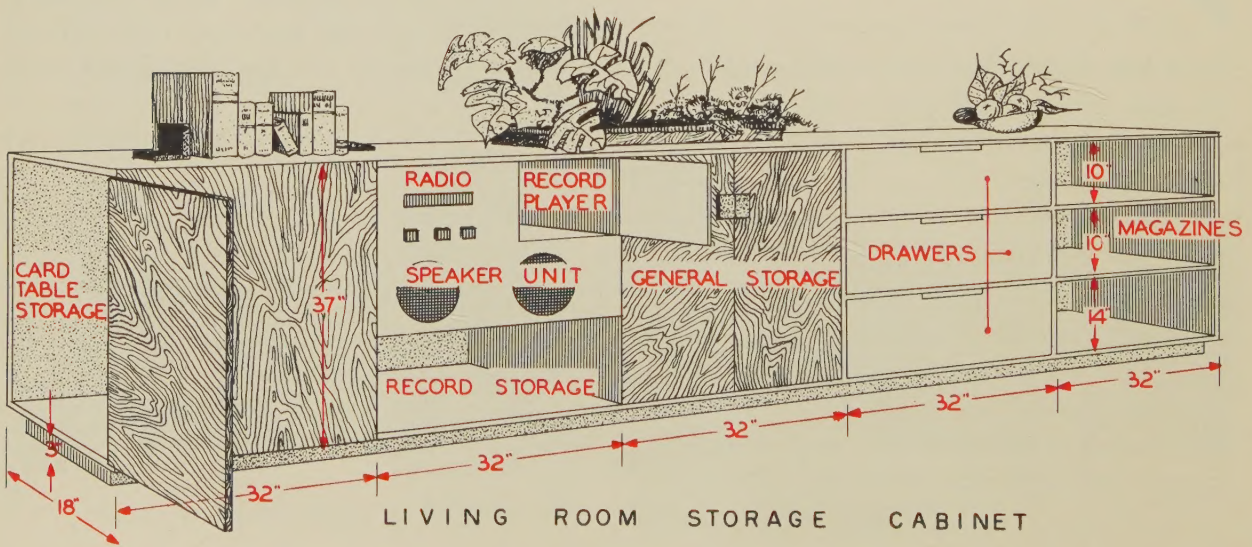
Two types of built-in living room storage are shown on this page. One combines shelves for books, magazines, and record storage, a desk, and a place for fireplace wood.

Low Storage Is Convenient

The other drawing shows low storage which fits into a living room area. This type is common in many modern houses, and often serves as a division between the dining and living area in a room, or between two living areas.

When you build book shelves, make them adjustable. And the easiest way is to screw metal shelf stripping at each end of the cupboard.

If you aren't able to build storage into your living room, plan to use furniture that allows you the greatest amount of storage space. This furniture may include low tables with shelves, small chests of drawers, and lamp tables with shelves or drawers.



Dining Room Storage

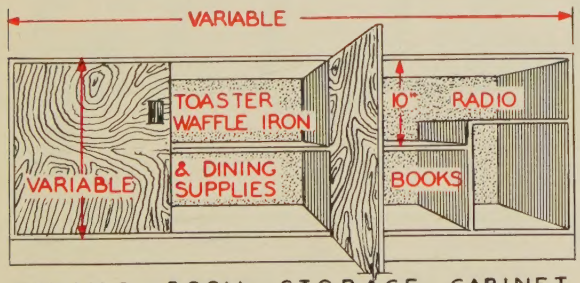
Whether you eat in the dining room, in one end of the kitchen, or in a part of your living room, you need some storage space in your dining area. Plan this space for table linens, electrical equipment used at the dining table, salt and pepper shakers, and other things that need not go to the kitchen after each meal. You may want to keep your best dishes and silver here also.

Table linens are easily wrinkled when stored in a deep drawer or on a shelf. Shallow drawers, such as those shown here, are easy to pull out and use for storing table linens without stacking too high. You can build such a set of drawers as a buffet or you can enclose it with doors. In this case, you can use pull-out trays if you like them better than drawers, since they are easier to construct.

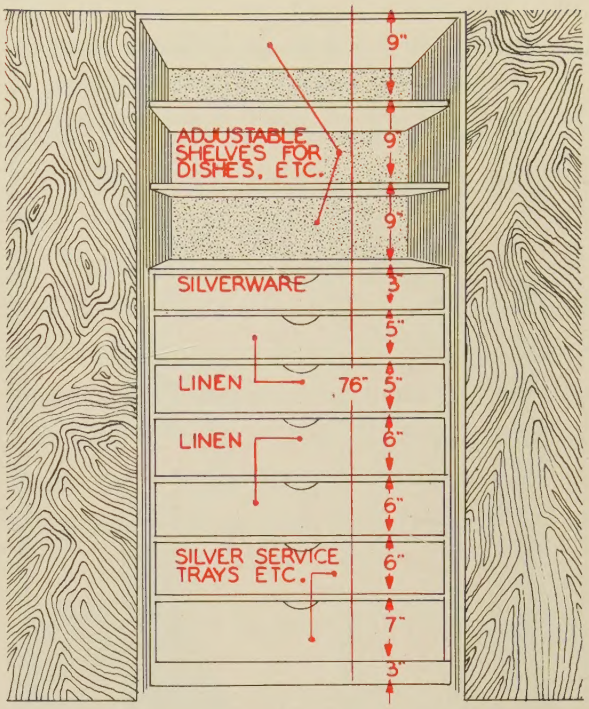
For Dishes and Equipment

Although good dishes are often kept in the dining area, many families prefer to keep them in the kitchen cupboards near the dish-washing area. It's handier to put them away there. Silverware can go into a drawer only 3 inches deep; partition it so you can keep your silver drawer in order easily.

A low cupboard under a window is useful in the dining room for electrical equipment and dining room supplies. Or you may choose a buffet to use for such storage. If you do, be sure it is designed so you can use all of the space and reach things easily.



DINING ROOM STORAGE CABINET



DINING ROOM STORAGE CABINET

For Family Living

Often the dining area, even though it may be in the kitchen, becomes the sewing center, a place where children study and where the family does some of its entertaining. A radio, toys and games, and books and magazines can be kept here for the family to use. And Mother may like her mending basket here, too. Such a cupboard may be as high or as low as you desire.

It's a common practice to iron in the dining area. If you do this, plan for a nearby place to keep your ironing boards, iron, and other supplies.

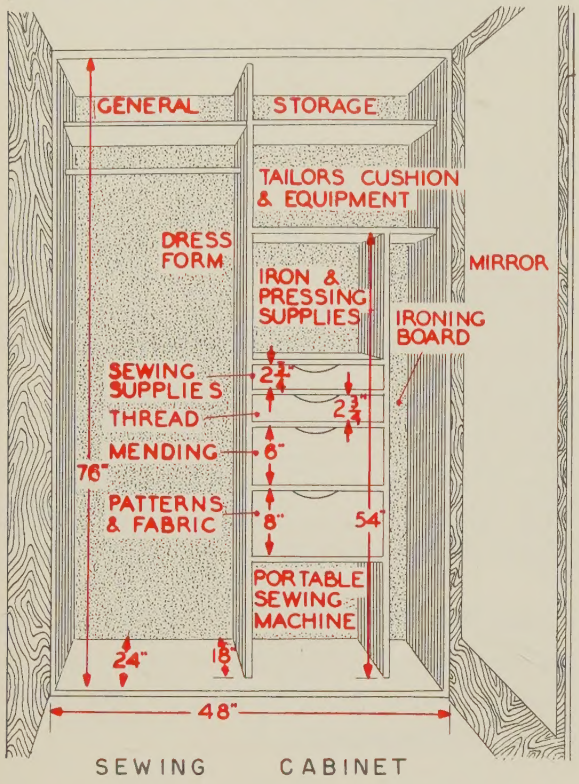
For Your Sewing

Some women sew in the bedroom, some in the dining room, and some in the kitchen. If you do much sewing, you'll appreciate having a special sewing cabinet or cupboard.

A central hall with storage built into it is a good place for sewing supplies and equipment. Then you can take what you need to the room where you want to sew.

A drawing of a sewing cupboard is shown above. You need to plan the size of your sewing cupboard to fit your equipment.

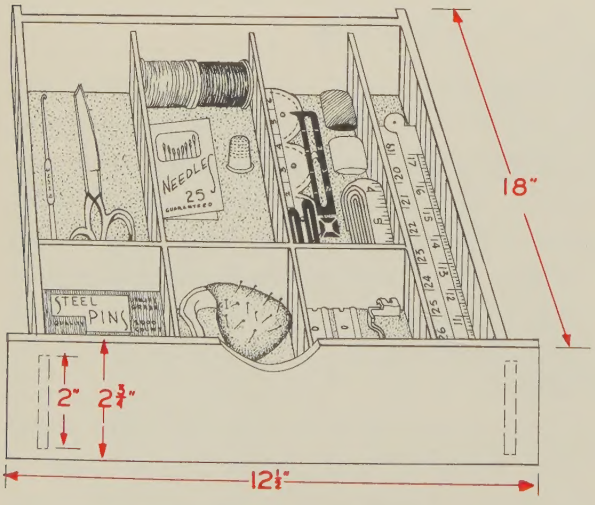
You may prefer to keep ironing boards in the laundry area where you do your week's ironing. Then when you need one, you can bring it into the room where you sew.



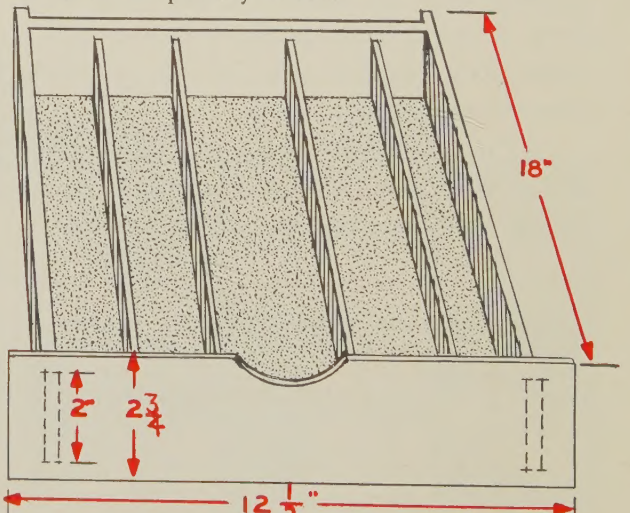
SEWING CABINET

Storage for Small Items

A shallow divided drawer is also useful to store small sewing equipment, such as scissors, tape measure, pins, and other supplies. A suggested drawer of this type is shown on this page. Be sure to measure your own tools before the drawer is built, so they'll fit into the drawer when it's finished. A drawer for thread also makes it easy to pick the color you need when you sew. Space the dividers to fit the sizes of spools you use.



FIRST DRAWER



THREAD DRAWER

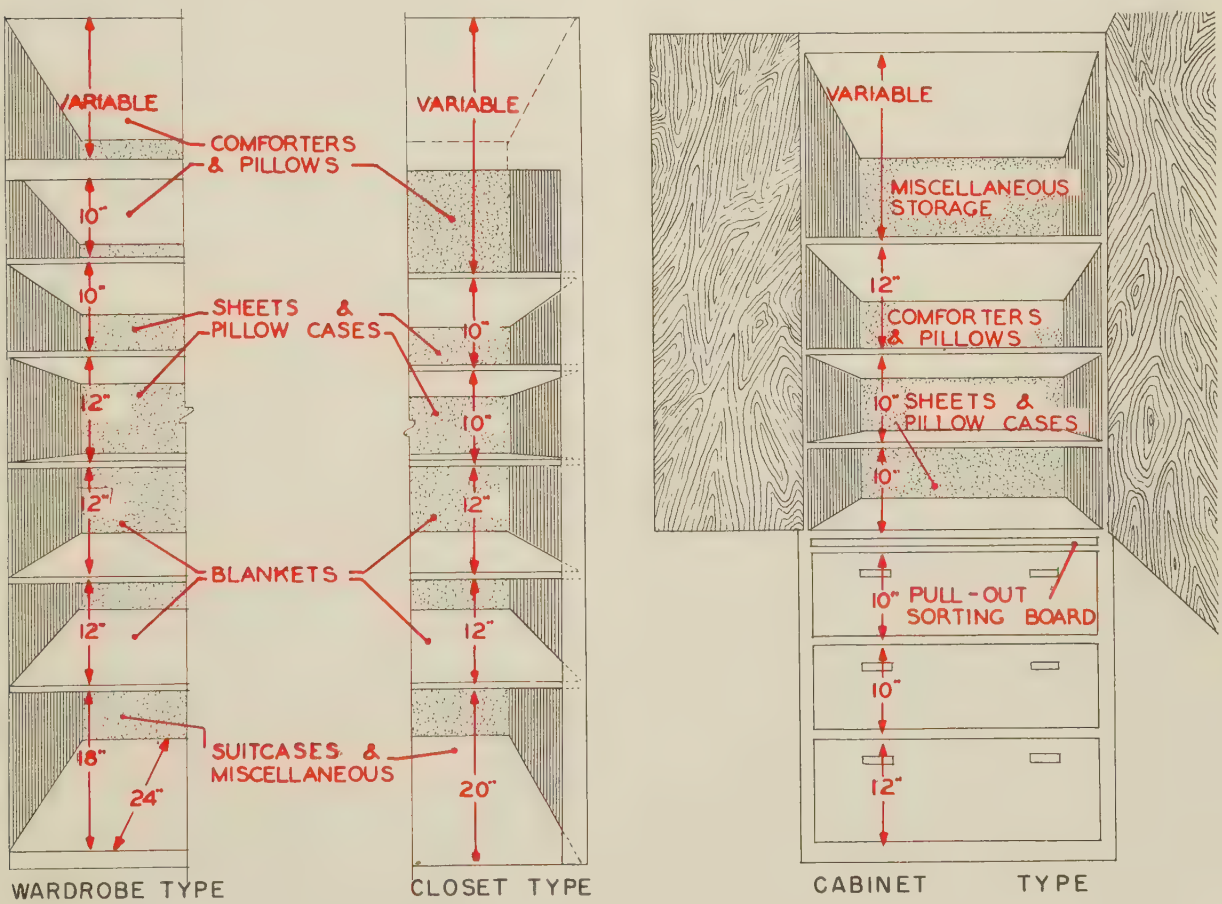
Storage for Bedding

Many families have a problem in finding a place to store extra bedding. Even one or two blankets are hard to handle because they are so bulky. A hall closet near the bedrooms is an ideal place to store bedding. And it's easy to get to when you want an extra blanket in the night.

A common fault of many bedding closets is that shelves are too far apart so bedding must be stacked high. Put in enough shelves and make them adustable so you can space them to fit your bedding.

Many women prefer drawers for bedding, because they are easy to put things into. The drawing below shows drawers at the bottom and adjustable shelves above. A pull-out board, similar to the one beneath your kitchen counter, is a good place to set down stacks of bedding when sorting and putting away.

You'll find even a few shelves helpful if you are hampered for a spot to have a bedding closet. Measure your stacks of sheets and pillow cases to find the most useful size of shelf for you. Usually such a closet is 30 to 36 inches across the front and 18 to 24 inches deep to allow you to put bedding away easily.



SHELF SPACING FOR BEDDING CLOSETS

Storing Equipment for Cleaning

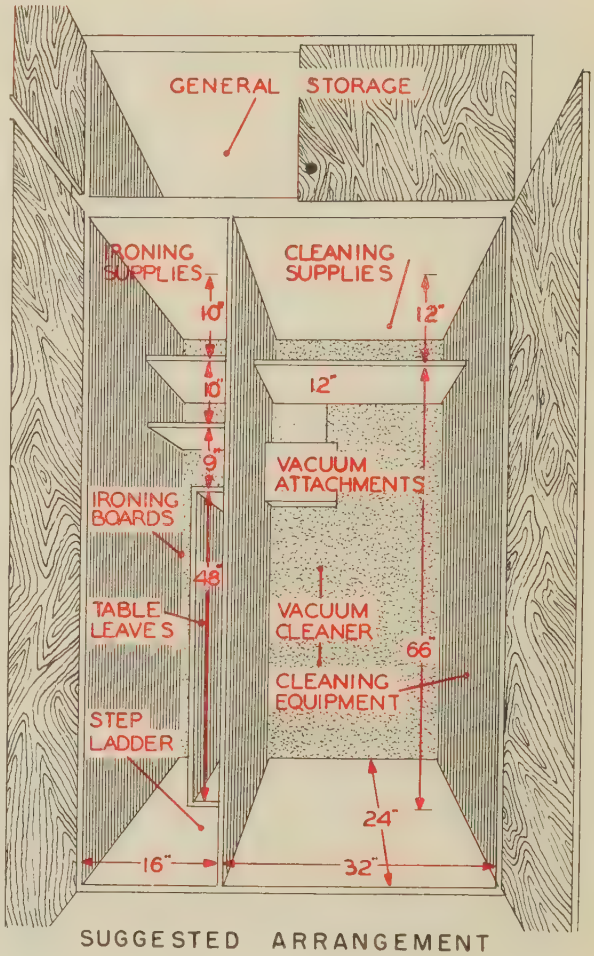
A cleaning closet in the central area of the house is easy to reach from all rooms. You may want a space on both the first and second floors for some cleaning equipment to save trips up and down stairs.

A cleaning closet can vary in depth from 18 to 24 inches. As in all other types of storage, you need to measure equipment carefully to be sure it fits into the closet you plan for it.

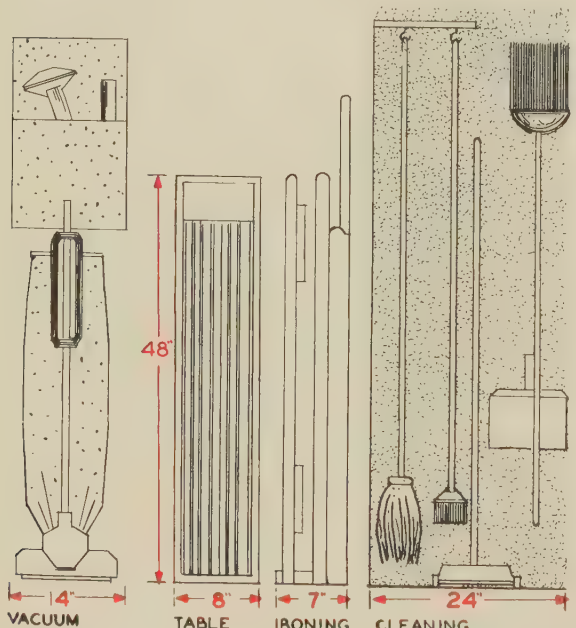
Adjustable shelves are convenient here as well as in other cupboards since you can space them to fit the articles you have on hand.

Your Ironing Equipment

If you iron in your workroom, plan for a closet there to store your ironing equipment and supplies. A modern ironing board with a small end is 15 x 54 inches. Homemade wide boards are 20 or 22 inches wide and 48 inches long. Many families like to have one of each type. With these boards you can iron with work



SUGGESTED ARRANGEMENT

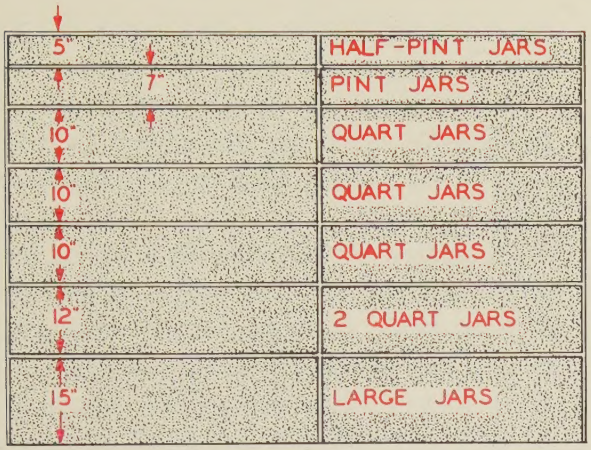


UNIT SPACES FOR CLEANING CABINET

simplification methods. Plan your storage to have a place for wide boards, and keep the iron, pressing cloths, and all other ironing supplies and equipment in one place to make your work easy.

Use wardrobe-type doors on the cleaning closet so you can open them wide to remove equipment. Ventilate with louvers or holes at the top and bottom of the door. And if you keep things off the floor, it is easy to run the dust mop in and keep the closet clean. Hang brooms and mops on clamp hangers. And be sure to store oily cloths in covered tin boxes or cans; otherwise they'll be a fire hazard.

Canned and Frozen Foods



STORAGE FOR CANNED GOODS

CANNED FOOD STORAGE

11 inches—depth of shelves for glass jars

100 pint or quart jars need 19 feet of shelf

100 2-quart jars need 20 feet of shelf

100 No. 2½ tin cans need 9 feet of shelf space

10 inches between shelves for quart jars

7 inches between shelves for pint jars, and No. 2, 2½, and 3 tin cans

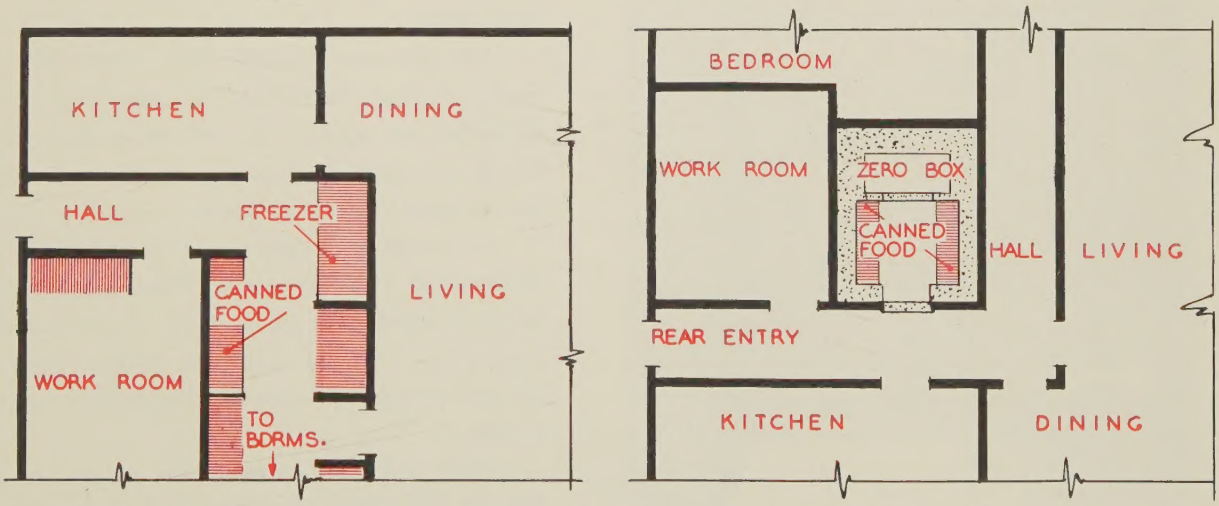
12 inches between shelves for 2-quart jars

Canned foods need to be stored in a cool, dark, dry place with the temperature between 50 and 60° F. A place on the main floor is most convenient for the whole family. And if properly ventilated and insulated, it can be kept cool. If you store canned food in the basement, be sure your house is planned with the basement door near the kitchen. Also be sure this storage space is the proper temperature.

Where Does Your Freezer Go?

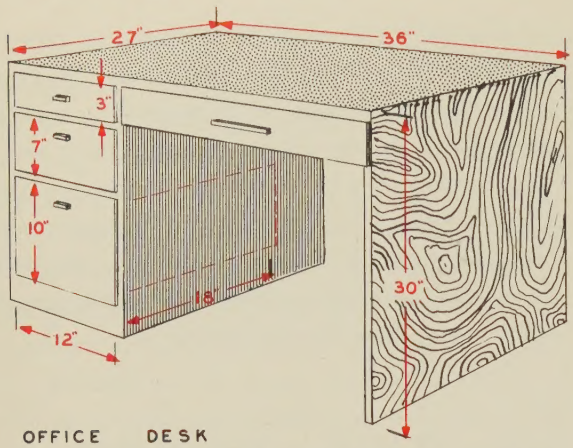
If you want your freezer near the kitchen, the hall is a good place for it. If it is a chest-type, be sure to allow plenty of room above it so you can lift the lid. Above this area you may put in shelves for freezing cartons. If you have a walk-in type of freezer built into your home, the most convenient location is near the kitchen and workroom.

The drawings on this page show some convenient locations for freezers and canned food.



FROZEN & CANNED FOOD STORAGE

Storage for Business Papers



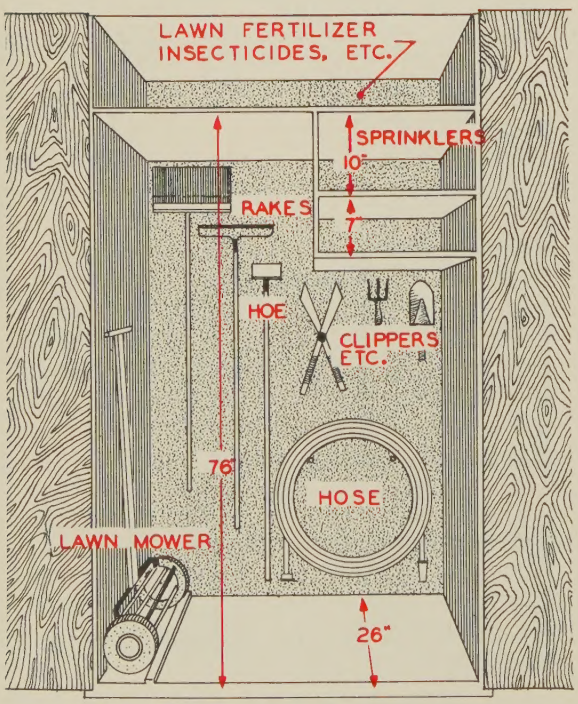
OFFICE DESK

Every family has business papers which need to be filed for ready use. Some of these you want in the kitchen, especially if Mother is the family bookkeeper. A desk in the dining or living room can also serve this purpose.

Many types of business areas may be planned for the home. All should include a place to write and to keep correspondence and business records.

A shallow drawer in a desk is a good place for writing supplies and small articles useful in doing family business. And the easiest place to keep business papers within easy reach is in filing folders. Many desks these days have a drawer about 10 inches deep by 12 inches wide which these folders fit into. Some families, however, choose to have an entire filing cabinet to store business papers.

Storage for Garden Tools



GARDEN EQUIPMENT CABINET

All too often garden tools are forgotten when storage plans are made. Keep them in a dry place near your vegetable garden and lawn. You'll find it easier to get all the family to put tools away if they have a convenient place to store them.

No one can stumble over tools that are hung up, and little children cannot reach insecticides and sprays that are on a shelf out of reach. You may want to put a door with a lock on this shelf for extra safety.

A storage area near the lawn and garden—in one end of your garage, farm shop, or any farm building is a good place. Some families even plan a special closet for garden tools on the end of a porch or at the rear entrance to the house.

Make the floor close to the ground so it's easy to roll in the lawn mower and other tools on wheels. And like all storage areas, measure your tools before you make your plans.

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